USA - NEW ENGLAND IN THE FALL (WITH FLIGHT) - £3,000

19th September 2020 - 9th October 2020 (21 days)
If you think about the Fall, then New England springs to mind. Situated in the north-east of the USA, there are four states that encapsulate the New England experience; this tour centres on Vermont (VT) which is the most westerly. Vermont is relatively compact but also hilly, featuring many winter ski resorts in the White Mountains. As a result the daily distances are kept low enough to enjoy our trip through scenery that will hopefully be at its peak for reds, oranges and yellows on the foliage.
A moving-on tour with rest days, travelling the length and breadth of the state and staying in well-appointed motels and inns.

Holiday Itinerary

Saturday 19th September
Fly from London Heathrow to Boston Logan on Virgin Atlantic flight VS4011 departing 0940, arriving 1229. Short coach transfer to our motel or inn. Stay 2 nights. Meals: None

Sunday 20th September
Full day to explore delightful Boston, one of the most interesting cities in the USA. Walk the Freedom Trail, take in a museum or visit many of the neighbourhoods including Harvard, Beacon Hill and North End. Meals: None

Monday 21st September
Morning coach transfer to Brattleboro in the south-western corner of Vermont. This should take about two and a half hours. Settle into our accommodation and re-assemble the bikes. Stay 2 nights. Meals: None

Tuesday 22nd September
Being so close to two other states, it seems a shame not to at least visit them, so today we will complete the Tri-State Loop. Heading out from Brattleboro, we will head south along the western side of the Connecticut River to enter Massachusetts at Northfield, before crossing the river into New Hampshire to follow the eastern side back to Brattleboro. 51 miles. Meals: B

Wednesday 23rd September
We start our cycling journey by heading west across the southern end of Vermont to Bennington. 50 miles. Stay 1 night. Meals: B

Thursday 24th September
Turning northwards we pass through Arlington with its covered bridge and early Anglican cemetery with interesting headstones. Following the Batten Kill River valley, we reach Manchester for the night. 39 miles. Stay 1 night. Meals: B

Friday 25th September
We continue heading north admiring the Green Mountain National Forest on our right, passing within a few miles of Rutland, the third largest town in Vermont, to finish at Brandon which has over 250 buildings on the National Historic Register, a museum and several Civil War memorials. 55 miles. Stay 2 nights. Meals: B

Saturday 26th September
To the west of Brandon lies the Champlain Valley ‘Land of Milk and Honey’. On this ride we will experience American Revolution history, apple orchards and panoramic mountain vistas of the Adirondacks and Green Mountains. At the farthest point there is the option of taking the short ferry across Lake Champlain to Fort Ticonderoga. 46 miles. Meals: B

Sunday 27th September
A shorter day today as we head along the eastern shore of Lake Dunmore to the pretty town of East Middlebury. 20 miles. Stay 1 night. Meals: B

Monday 28th September
The Pulp Mill Covered Bridge offers an early highlight before we pass through Vergennes, which has the honour of being Vermont’s smallest city with three thousand residents. Passing through Ferrisburgh, we head to Burlington, passing Sherman-Holmes Creek Covered Bridge and cycling close to Lake Champlain. Burlington is the antithesis to Vermont’s perfect villages with a vibrant waterfront. 48 miles. Stay 1 night. Meals: B

Tuesday 29th September
We head to Swanton, on the east side of Lake Champlain, the sixth largest body of fresh water in the United States. There will be views across the water to the Adirondack Mountains to the west in New York State. 46 miles. Stay 1 night. Meals: B

Wednesday 30th September
With scenery more closely resembling Vermont of three decades ago, today’s ride takes us through remote farmlands with splendid views of Mount Mansfield and the Green Mountains. We finish at Jeffersonville, where the whole village has been designated as a National Historic District. 45 miles. Stay 1 night. Meals: B

Thursday 1st October
Route 108 is a scenic road, and today’s ride takes us over its prettiest but hilliest section, rising 1,500 feet over Stowe Mountain Resort in the shadow of Mount Mansfield, the highest point in Vermont. The day has been kept deliberately short, and we finish at Stowe with its white spired meeting house and beautiful 19th-century centre. 20 miles. Stay 1 night. Meals: B

Friday 2nd October
Continuing south, we pass through Waterbury Village Historic District, made famous because this is where Ben and Jerry’s ice cream started. Passing through Moretown there are two climbs, then after Warren we gradually descend to Rochester. 58 miles. Stay 2 nights. Meals: B

Saturday 3rd October
Rest day in Rochester. Meals: None

Sunday 4th October
The White River is our companion for the first part of the day as we pass through Stockbridge before heading towards Bethel. A 900 foot climb takes us through Barnard before a long descent to Woodstock. 35 miles. Stay 2 nights. Meals: B

Monday 5th October
Woodstock is so meticulously preserved that its buildings are precisely as they were 100 years ago. We ride out of town to pass through quiet countryside, much of which follows rivers to another pretty town, namely Quechee. There is a difficult climb today, but the reward is one of Vermont’s finest downhill runs. 26 miles. Meals: B

Tuesday 6th October
Nearing the end of the tour now, our target is Chester, a village with typical Vermont clapboard houses and an ornate Victorian style. If we have time there is the option of taking the Green Mountain Flyer for a two-hour sightseeing train ride through the mountains. 33 miles. Stay 1 night. Meals: B

Wednesday 7th October
Our last day of cycling takes us through Grafton, an iconic New England Village with white clapboard buildings, a pointed spired church and a waterfall through the centre. Finish at Battleboro. 35 miles. Stay 1 night. Meals: B

Thursday 8th October
Afternoon two and a half hour coach transfer to Boston Logan airport for Virgin Atlantic flight VS012 to London Heathrow departing 2255. Meals: None

Friday 9th October
Arrive London Heathrow at 1035 where the tour ends.
Meals: B = Breakfast

Holiday Summary
Accommodation & Meals
This will be in motels or inns, sharing rooms. Breakfast is included on cycling days, although not always at the accommodation.

Vehicle Support
No vehicle support is provided. Participants are expected to carry their own luggage.

Passports, Visa & Health
EU citizens must hold a passport that is valid for at least 6 months at the end of the tour. A visa will not be required. However you will require an ESTA, which should be applied for at least 72 hours before departure (https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov). Holders of non-EU passports are advised to check whether or not they require a visa.
There are no compulsory health related requirements for EU residents. You should contact your doctor at least 3 months prior to travel to obtain any vaccinations and the latest advice to travellers.

Travel Insurance
Our Booking Conditions stipulate that, for holidays outside the UK, travel Insurance is mandatory. Details of the level of cover needed and other conditions you should check are stated in the Booking Conditions. CTC Cycling Holidays & Tours Ltd cannot accept responsibility for any costs that may be incurred due to insufficient insurance cover.

Price
The price of £3,000 is based on a minimum number of 8 people taking part in the holiday; please note Booking Conditions, clause 3. If there are insufficient bookings by 11th July 2020, we will contact you and return all monies paid, although in certain circumstances the holiday may still run at below minimum numbers but at the same price.

Price Includes
- Return flights between London Heathrow and Boston Logan
- 19 nights motel/inn, sharing room
- 15 breakfasts
- Coach transfers as detailed in the Itinerary
- CTC Cycling Holidays & Tours costs

Price Does Not Include
- Travel to and from London Heathrow
- Meals in transit
- Dinners (budget $20/day)
- Lunches or refreshments during the day (budget $10/day)
- Lake Champlain Ferry (budget $16)
- Green Mountain Flyer (budget $25)
- Entry fees at any other attractions visited
- Any other personal expenses
- Travel Insurance
- Single occupancy supplement (£1500, subject to availability)

Payment Schedule
A deposit of £400 per person is payable upon booking, with an Interim Payment of £1,000 per person due by 1st May 2020. The final balance of £1,600 per person is to be paid ten weeks prior to departure, by 11th July 2020.

Cancellations
Should you be forced to cancel your booking for any reason you must notify us in writing. Cancellation charges are as follows:

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<th>Written notice received:</th>
<th>Cancellation charge:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Before 1st May 2020</td>
<td>Deposit (£400)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1st May 2020 to 10th July 2020</td>
<td>46.7% (£1,400)</td>
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<tr>
<td>11th July 2020 through to departure</td>
<td>100% (£3,000)</td>
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Additional Information

Area Covered By The Holiday
New England is located in the north-east of the United States, bordered by Canada. There are four states that make up this area - Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont. Vermont is the smallest and most westerly one, and it is on this state that this tour will concentrate.

Rides & Rest Days
The Tour Manager’s style of leadership allows participants to cycle at their own pace during the day. We'll all set off at the same time, then people are free to find their own riding companions to suit their pace and riding style. We'll try to stop for a decent break at least twice a day to enable people to wait or catch up. However, if on some days you wish to linger awhile, or push on to the end, so long as the Tour Manager is aware of this, that's fine.
Although Vermont isn't as mountainous as you would imagine the Alps or Rockies, it is a hilly state. However the daily distances have been kept low enough to allow plenty of time to get from place to place.
Accommodation & Meals
All motels and inns will be of a good standard with one or two beds in each room and private facilities. Generous ‘continental’ breakfasts will be included at some of the motels or inns, but otherwise the group will eat at a local restaurant or diner. Participants are responsible for their own lunches and dinners, for which there is an excellent choice at very reasonable prices.

Group Information
The maximum number of participants will be 13 excluding the Tour Manager(s).

Weather & Clothing
At this time of year the weather can range from pleasantly warm to quite chilly, and rain is a possibility, thus you should carry sufficient clothing to ensure that you can remain warm and (reasonably) dry. Anyone with sensitive skin should bring some suncream, though the sun shouldn’t be very intense at this time of year at this latitude.

Cycles & Equipment
A touring cycle, hybrid or lightweight ATB is suitable for this tour. You should ensure your cycle is well maintained, paying particular attention to wheels, tyres and brakes. A low bottom gear (e.g. small chainring the same size or smaller than the largest cog on your rear wheel) is recommended. If you are unsure about gears, please discuss with the Tour Manager. Mudguards are optional but show courtesy to those who are following you in wet weather. Lights are recommended but might not prove essential. New tyres are recommended of at least 28mm diameter. Participants will be expected to carry each day sufficient spares and tools to deal with punctures and minor repairs.
Each participant is expected to bring, and carry, all of their own clothing, personal items and spares. You are advised to do some riding before the tour with a similar load to that which you will be carrying during the tour to get a feel for how your bike will handle.
Helmets are your personal choice.

Maps & Guides
Detailed route sheets will be sent with the final tour information approximately three weeks before the tour starts. These should enable anyone to find their own way around the route.

Travel Insurance & Advice
Before booking you should check the latest travel advice from the Foreign & Commonwealth Office including security and local laws, plus passport and visa information, at www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice or on 0845 850 2829.

Tour Manager’s Contact Details
If you require any assistance, or have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact the Tour Manager using the information provided below.

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